



## ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE December 7, 2001

George H. Ryan  
GOVERNOR

Matt Bettenhausen  
Homeland Security Director

- The Illinois General Assembly passed Governor Ryan's \$17 million supplemental request for Homeland Security items. The supplemental funding will subsequently be available in the current fiscal year and includes specific appropriations for several key security, safety and preparedness items including:
  - \$2.5 million for drugs and antidotes for first responders. These caches will be strategically placed throughout the state so they are readily available in a short period of time anywhere an event occurs.
  - \$2 million to accelerate specialized terrorism training for first responders through the Illinois Fire Service Institute.
  - \$4 million to enhance the state's public health system, including expanding laboratory capacity at the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) labs.
  - \$7 million for Homeland Security to cover extraordinary state equipment or personnel expenses for security and public safety related to terrorism.
- In the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks, local governments have been encouraged to develop, review, and/or update contingency plans which can be used to protect the critical physical and cyber systems upon which survivability and specific mission accomplishments may be dependent. The U. S. Fire Administration (USFA) has offered to assist municipalities in the development of customized critical infrastructure protection (CIP) programs. Components of a CIP program may include:
  - telecommunications facilities;

- electrical and nuclear power plants;
- crude and refined petroleum pipelines;
- oil and gas holding, refining, and processing facilities;
- aviation, rail, and barge conduits and support systems;
- water dams, pipelines, and filtration systems.

USFA representatives may be contacted at 16825 South Seton Avenue, Room H-313, Emmitsburg, Maryland, 21727, or by telephone at (301) 447-1325. The agency may also be contacted via electronic mail at [usfacipc@fema.gov](mailto:usfacipc@fema.gov).

- Consequences Management News, Equipment, and Training (CoMNET) is a recurring satellite broadcast program offering weapons of mass destruction awareness information to the nation's civilian and emergency response communities. CoMNET is a news magazine-style program consisting of multiple segments similar to National Alert programs aired on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Education Network. The target audience of the program includes civilian and military emergency response communities at all levels of government, including law enforcement, fire services, emergency response teams, and local, state, and federal preparedness personnel. CoMNET can be found at [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/whatsnew/whats\\_new.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/whatsnew/whats_new.htm).
- The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) will conduct a plague tabletop exercise for senior staff on December 10 in Springfield. The purpose of the exercise is to test IDPH's emergency response procedures for a bio terrorism incident in Northeastern Illinois involving plague. During the exercise, IDPH will discuss direction and control procedures, the use of the CDC national pharmaceutical stockpile, and implementation of a quarantine. Results of the exercise will be used to modify existing preparedness plans.
- The quarterly meeting of the BioTerrorism Preparedness and Response Task Force will be held on

December 7 at the Illinois College of Emergency Physicians Office in Oakbrook Terrace. The focus of the meeting will be to review the concept of operations for Illinois' NPS Plan as outlined in Version 1.0 of the plan. IDPH will release Version 2.0 of the Illinois NPS Plan next week. The bioterrorism task force is a subcommittee to the Illinois Terrorism Task Force.

- As of December 3, the Springfield and Chicago laboratories have processed 1,376 anthrax samples. All have been negative. The Internet is a good source of information on anthrax. The following Internet site contains an informative document on anthrax: <http://www.fbi.gov/majcases/amerithrax/amerithrax.htm>. It includes information from the FBI concerning linguistic and behavioral assessments of the person responsible for sending the 3 anthrax-laden letters on September 18 and October 9. For example, the author uses the words "can not," when many people prefer to spell it as one word, "cannot". The names and address on each envelope are noticeably tilted on a downward slant from left to right. This may be a characteristic seen on other envelopes he has sent. Furthermore, he has likely taken appropriate protective steps to ensure his own safety, which may include the use of an Anthrax vaccination or antibiotics. For more information, please consult the website.
- On November 29, IDPH, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council and Illinois Hospital and Healthsystems Association conducted a review of the revised State Emergency Medical Disaster Plan for hospital officials in Chicago. The purpose of the session was to provide a detailed review of the activation protocol and discuss major changes to the plan, which was last revised in 1999. More than 100 hospital and public health officials attended the review.
- The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) obtained a videotape from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service on suspicious packages. The video will be shown to DNR employees.

- The Board of Natural Resources and Conservation (governing board of the scientific surveys in Champaign) is developing a policy on the management of critical incidents, which is modeled after the University of Illinois' Critical Incidents Manual. The Waste Management Research Center has just amended their emergency evacuation procedures as a result of a review of their emergency plan.
- Illinois Homeland Security Director Matt Bettenhausen recently met with the CEO of the Greater Chicagoland area American Red Cross, Bill Braden, along with the Save A Life Foundation to discuss the ongoing needs and efforts in New York including what has been effective in helping the overall relief and planning efforts and how the lessons learned can be applied here in Illinois.
- The American Red Cross (ARC) Office of Global Safety and Security has issued Security Awareness guidance and checklists for use in all ARC facilities worldwide. ARC law enforcement/liaison personnel will be assigned to facilitate communication with law enforcement and help ensure ARC facilities and personnel remain safe at major relief operations involving terrorist incidents.
- ARC has scheduled a Disaster Conference focused on Weapons of Mass Destruction/Terrorism for early January 2002. Key ARC leaders throughout the United States will be present to enhance the readiness of ARC personnel for disaster.
- ARC has opened a new Domestic Preparedness Training Center that was recently funded by Congress at the Pine Bluff Arsenal in Arkansas. The center will offer intensive training for chapter and biomedical personnel on terrorism. Four Illinois staff have been scheduled to attend in December 2001.
- The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) participated in a conference call with the USDA concerning the release of a Harvard University risk assessment study on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in the United States. In 1998 the USDA entered into an agreement with Harvard to analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of USDA/FDA prevention and strategies. The study found that in the unlikely event BSE was to

be introduced into the United States, control measures already in place ensure that either zero or very few additional animals would get sick and the disease would eventually die out.

- Temporary flight restrictions remain in effect around the Fisher gas storage facility, Newport (Indiana) ammunition plant, downtown Chicago, and all open air sporting events with more than 10,000 people in attendance. Additionally, pilots are advised to avoid overflight, circling, or loitering around all power plants, dams, reservoirs, and military installations in the state.
- All Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Division of Petroleum and Chemical Safety staff, in house and field, were briefed on the division's role in EOC and emergency response issues and roles.
- The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) is providing Radiation Hazardous Materials Response training and Medical Response to Radiation Accident In-Service training to response agencies upon their request.